SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am talking of India, of the Himalayas. In the hills, there are two reasons for felling the trees. One is for fruit packaging in the major hill States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal, and every year one hundred thousand fully grown trees are felled. How are you going to save that situation? Secondly, about fuel consumption, to develop an alternative fuel for the hill people is the only way to save forests.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: The hon. Member has put a very correct question. Packaging is one of the causes for denudation of forests. We have taken steps, specially with the Himalayan States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and other States. They are making use of alternative fuel.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Government of India give more subsidy?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: We are giving subsidy and they are converting....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Declaration of assets by legislators and their family members

*401. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enact legislation enjoining upon all legislators and their family members to declare their assets; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement with the United States to combat drug trafficking

*406. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign an agreement with the United States for jointly combating the trafficking in narcotics; if so, what will be the main features of the agreement and by when it will be signed;

(b) how far Government have cut the legal production of opium on account of alleged threat of leakage; and

(c) how far Government have stepped up international cooperation to combat drug trafficking and in what manner Government are combating transit of narcotics through India to the West European countries and to the United States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A Draft Agreement on bilateral cooperation covering all aspects of drug problem has been exchanged between Government of USA and the Government of India. As soon as the agreement is finalised, it will be signed.

(b) In India, opium poppy cultivation for the production of opium is mainly export-oriented. In recent years, Indian opium has been facing stiff competition from alternate raw materials which has affected the exports, leading to accumulation of huge stocks of opium in the Government factories. In the circumstances, Government have been constrained to reduce the acreage under cultivation which has been brought down from about 66,000 hectares in 1977-78 to about 15,000 hectares in 1988-89. However, such reduction is not on account of alleged threat of leakage from licit production.

(c) In the wake of increasing transit traffic, the Government have taken various steps to enlarge bilateral, regional and international cooperation to combat drug trafficking problems which, *inter alia* include allowing the posting of Drug Liaison Officers from USA, Canada, U.K. and West Germany, in India. Such cooperation enables exchange of intelligence and information about drug traffickers and their activities.

A number of aggressive counter-measures have also been launched by the Government which, *inter alia*, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug traffickers, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially in and around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for both officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral cooperation between neighbouring countries (incluling regional cooperation under the aegis of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum period of 2 years for drug related crimes. 250 persons have so far been detained under the said Act.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 has also been amended to strengthen it further. The amendments, *inter alia*, include provisions for foreiture of illegally acquired property derived from or used in illicit drug trafficing; criminalising the activity of financing drug trafficking and for death penalty on second conviction for specified offences.

Ban on foreign and to voluntary Organisations

*407. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to put a ban on foreign aid being received by voluntary institutions in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The services rendered by associations utilising foreign contribution are likely to suffer if the acceptance of foreign contribution by them is totally banned.

Special status to Jammu and Kashmir State

*408. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have of late considered the desirability of continuing the special status to the State of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitutoin; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to abrogate the said Article and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a)There is no proposal under consideration to amend Article 370 of the Constitution.

(b) Does not arise.

Creation of an All India Judicial Service

*409. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals to create an All India Judicial Service and to fix uniform salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of Judicial Officers belonging to the category of Subordinate Judicial Service are dealt with in the Law Commission's 116th and 118th reports; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) since when these reports are under the consideration of the Central Government; and